116, 181, 609

"We are however indebted to two eminent Frenchmen for the fullest details which throw light on the intelligence or of the want of it in these natives. MM. La Billardière and Péron who visited the island within ten years of each other (1792 and 1803 respectively) have left such minute records of their intercourse with the aborigines of Tasmania before the days of settlement that we cannot do better than reproduce their accounts as fully as space permits of. Commencing with La Billardière, the first explorer, we find his companions had some difficulty in opening communication, as on their approach the natives fled away with precipitation (I. ch. v. pp. 181-211). At last, 'Two of the [32] officers of our vessel... determined to land.... They found four savages employed in laying fuel upon three small fires.... The savages immediately fled, notwithstanding all the signs of amity which they made them.... One of these savages... having left behind him a small basket ... was bold enough to come quite near to Crétin [one of the officers] in order to fetch it, with a look of assurance with which his bodily strength seemed to inspire him' (I. ch. v. pp. 221-222). Then when a boat landed, 'the natives, who, notwithstanding all the signs of amity they made them, would not let them come within two hundred paces distance of him' (ibid. ch. v. p. 223). Similar results were recorded the following day (ch. v. p. 225). Finally we are told (ch. v. pp. 233-234), 'One of the officers ... met six of them [natives] walking slowly towards the south.... Their surprise at so unexpected an encounter was visible in their countenances; but their numbers inspiring them with courage, they approached at the invitation of the European, and bound

round their heads a handkerchief and neck-cloth which he offered them. They, however, appeared terrified at the sight of his hanger, which he showed them how to use; nor were their fears quieted till he made them a present of it. He endeavoured in vain to persuade them to come to the place where our ships lay at anchor: the savages walked away... in a direction ... opposite to that which led to the shore. Some of our men, having landed on the other side of the strait, came to a large fire round which eight savages ... sat warming themselves..... They immediately ran away as soon as they saw our people. An old woman, who had the care of their provisions, which she did not choose to leave behind her, was soon overtaken by some of the sailors. She accepted with an air of satisfaction a handkerchief which was given her, but was so terrified at the sight of a hanger, which they presented to her, that she leapt down a precipice more than forty [sic] feet in height, and ran away amongst the rocks, where they soon lost sight of her.' After this 'they discovered a number of the savages landing from a raft. As timid as those we had seen before, they had hastened with all possible speed to the land, where they made their escape into the woods' (ch. v. p. 230)."

"It was however not until their second visit that the Frenchmen succeeded in obtaining interviews with the natives. La Billardière then relates (II. ch. x. pp. 32-66), 'We advanced a few steps, when a sudden cry, arising from several voices united, issued from one spot, and we perceived through the trees a number of natives, most of whom appeared to [33] be fishing on the borders of the lake.... We had gone only a few steps before we met them. The men and youths were ranged in front, nearly in a semi-circle; the women, girls and children were a few paces behind. As their manner did not appear to indicate any hostile design, I hesitated not to go up to the oldest, who accepted, with a very good grace, a piece of biscuit I offered him, of which he had seen me eat. I then held out my hand to him as a sign of friendship, and had the pleasure to perceive, that he comprehended my meaning very well; he gave me his, inclining himself a little. These motions were accompanied by a pleasing smile. My companions also advanced up to the others, immediately the best understanding prevailed among us."

"They received with great joy the neck-cloths which we offered them: the young people approached nearer us; and one of them had the generosity to give me a few small shells of the whelk kind, pierced near the middle and strung like a necklace.... This ornament was the only one he possessed.... A handkerchief supplied the place of this present, gratifying the utmost wishes of my savage, who advanced towards me, that I might tie it round his head for him, and who expressed the greatest joy, as he lifted his hand up to feel it again and again.... The women were very desirous of coming nearer us; and though the men made signs to them, to keep at a distance, their curiosity was ready every moment to break through all other considerations. The gradual increase of confidence, however, that took place, obtained for them permission to approach.... A pole-axe which we used for cutting off some branches from the trees excited the admiration of these people. As they perceived us willing to give them anything in our possession, they did not scruple to beg it; and when we granted their request, they were overcome with joy. They were fully sensible also of the value of our knives, and received a few tin vessels with pleasure. When I showed them my watch, it attracted their desire, and one of them, in particular, expressed his wish to possess it: but he quickly desisted from his request, when he found I was not willing to part with it. The readiness with which we gave them our things led them, no doubt, to presume that they might take anything

belonging to us, without asking for it: this obliged us to set bounds to their desires; but we found that they returned to us, without the least resistance, such things as we could not dispense with for our own use.... I wished to get a kangaroo skin; among the savages about us there happened to be only a young girl who had one. When I proposed to her, to give [34] it me in exchange for a pair of pantaloons, she ran away to hide herself in the woods. The other natives appeared truly hurt at her refusal and called to her several times. At length she yielded to their entreaties, and came to bring me the skin.... She received a pair of pantaloons.... We showed her the manner of wearing them; notwithstanding, it was necessary for us to put them on for her ourselves. To this she yielded with the best grace in the world, resting both her hands on our shoulders, to support herself, while she lifted up first one leg, then the other, to put them into this new garment.... We invited them all to come and sit near our fire, and when they arrived there, one of the savages informed us by unequivocal signs, that he had come to reconnoitre us during the night. That we might understand he had seen us asleep, he inclined his head on one side, laying it on the palm of his right hand, and closing his eyes, and with the other, he pointed out the spot where we had passed the night. He then acquainted us, by signs equally expressive, that he was at the time on the other side of the brook, whence he observed us. ... We were desirous of showing these savages the effect of our fire-arms.... They appeared to be a little frightened at their report.'"

1: Roth--34-35 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 201, 609

"'I [KS: La Billardière] had not perceived the young girl for some time, but happening to look behind me, I saw, with surprise, seven [women] who had perched themselves on a stout limb of a tree, whence they attentively watched our slightest movements. As they all squatted on the bough they formed a pleasing group.' Some of the savages accompanied La Billardière to the coast, and he says: 'They no doubt conceived it to be our intention to return to Port D'Entrecasteaux, for we were twice mistaken in the road, and they both times pointed out to us that which led directly to it. . . . We hoped to be able to prevail on some of them to go on board with us; but they were already leaving us to rejoin their families. At our invitation, however, they deferred their departure. As soon as the boat came, we invited some of them to go on board. After taking a long while to resolve on it, three of them consented to get into the boat; but they got out again in great haste as we prepared to push off from the shore. We then saw them walk quietly along by the sea, looking towards us from time to time, and uttering cries of joy. The next day we returned in a large party. Some of the natives soon came to meet us, expressing by their cries the pleasure they felt at seeing us again. A lively joy was depicted on all their features when they saw us drawing near. The pains taken by one [35] of the mothers to quiet her infant, yet at the breast, who cried at sight of us, appeared to us very engaging. She could not pacify him till she covered his eyes with her hand, that he might not see us."

116, 431, 609

"None of these people appeared with arms, but probably they had left them in the wood near; for several of us having expressed an intention of going into it, one of the savages urgently entreated them not to go that way. Part of the crew, however, walked a little way along the shore that they might enter the wood unobserved by him; but no sooner did one of the women perceive their design, than she uttered horrible cries, to give notice to the other savages, who entreated them to return towards the sea. Their confidence in us was so great, that one of the women, who was suckling a child, was not afraid to entrust it to several of us. When we departed for Port D'Entrecasteaux, more than half these peaceful natives rose to accompany us. Four young girls were also of the party, and who received with indifference the garments we gave them, and immediately hung them on the bushes near the path, intending, no doubt to take them with them on their return. As a proof they did not set much value on such presents, we did not see on any of them one of the garments which we had given them the day before. All of them were of very cheerful disposition. No doubt we lost much by not understanding the language of these natives, for one of the girls said a great deal to us; she talked a long while with extraordinary volubility, though she must have perceived that we could not comprehend her meaning; no matter, she must talk. One of the young girls having perceived at a distance a head, which the gunner of the "Espérance" had carved on the stump

of a tree, appeared at first extremely surprised, and stopped short for a moment. She then went up to it with us, and after having considered it attentively, named to us the different parts, pointing them out at the same time with her hand. . . ."

"The next day a great number of us landed near Port D'Entrecasteaux to endeavour to see the savages again. It was not long before some of them came to meet us, giving us tokens of the greatest confidence. They first examined, with great attention the insides of our boats, and then they took us by the arm, and invited us to follow them along the shore. We had scarcely gone a mile before we found ourselves in the midst of eight-and-forty of the natives. The little children were very desirous of everything shiny, and were not afraid to come up to us, to endeavour to pull off our buttons. Their mothers, less curious with respect to their own dress than that of their children, held them up to us, [36] that we might decorate them with the ornaments which we had intended for themselves. I ought not to omit a waggish trick which a young savage played one of our people. The sailor had laid down a bag of shell fish at the foot of a rock: the youth slily removed it to another place; and let him search a long while for it in vain; at length he replaced it where the sailor had placed it, and was highly diverted at the trick he had played him. This numerous party was transported with admiration, when they saw the effects of gunpowder thrown on the burning coals. They all entreated us to let them have the pleasure of seeing it several times. Not being able to persuade themselves that we had none but men among us, they long believed, notwithstanding all we could say, that the youngest of us were women. Their curiosity on this head carried them further than we shoud have

expected, for they were not to be convinced till they had assured themselves of the fact. When we re-embarked these good people followed us with their eyes for some time, before they left the shore, and then they disappeared in the wood. Their way brought them at times to the shore again, of which we were immediately informed by the cries of joy with which they made the air resound. These testimonies of pleasure did not cease till we lost sight of them."

1: Roth--36 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 609

"We saw with pleasure, that the savages, who, at our last interview [the day before] had promised to come near our anchoring place within two days, had kept their word. We perceived a fire not far from our watering place. A great number of us repaired immediately to the place of rendezvous. They soon quitted their fire in order to come still nearer to us. We went to meet them; and when we were near them, they stopped, appearing well pleased at seeing us come ashore. Being invited by some of our crew to dance in a ring with them, (they) imitated all their movements tolerably well."

1: Roth--37 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 262, 609

"We let one of the natives see our ships through a good perspective glass, and he soon yielded to our solicitations to go on board the 'Recherche.' He went up the side with an air of confidence, and examined the inside of the ship with much attention. His looks were then directed chiefly to such objects as might serve for food. Led by the similitude in shape between two black swans on Cape Diemen and the geese of Guinea, which he saw on board, he asked for one, giving us to understand it was to eat. When he came opposite our hen-coops, he appeared struck with the beauty of a very large cock, which was presented to him; and on receiving it, he let us know that he would lose no time in broiling and eating it. After having remained on board more than half an hour, and been loaded with presents, he desired to return, and was immediately carried ashore. We had taken an ape on shore with us, which afforded much amusement to the savages; and one of the crew took a goat with him, which formed a subject of conversation for them a long time, and to which they occasionally spoke, saying, medi (sit down). [WEL: citing La Billardière, I, pp. 181-211; 1792]."

1: Roth--37
116, 372, 609

(No date) 1890

Tasmanians

"These savages were much surprised at seeing us kindle the spongy bark of the Eucalyptus resinifera in the focus of a burning-glass. He, who appeared the most intelligent among them, was desirous of trying the effects of the lens himself, threw the converging rays of the sun upon his thigh by its means; but the pain he felt took from him all inclination to repeat the experiment. [WEL: citing La Billardière, I, pp. 181-211; 1792]."

116, 431, 609

"At other meetings . . . [WEL: La Billardière] ch. xi. pp. 72-75... 'from time to time, they answered with shouts of joy the shouts of our sailors.... When we were but a little way from the beach, they advanced towards us without arms, their smiling countenances leaving us no room to doubt that our visit gave them pleasure. Their joy was expressed by loud bursts of laughter, while their countenances showed that they were well pleased to see us. These savages expressed much thankfulness when we gave them a few small pieces of stuffs of different colours, glass beads, a hatchet, and [38] some other aritcles of hardware. Several other savages came out of the wood and approached us. An officer imagined that he should not frighten them by letting them see the effects of our firearms; but they were alarmed at the report of the gun, immediately rose, and would not sit down again.... We expressed our wishes to see them [the wives and children] join us; the savages informed us that we should find them, after walking some time across the wood, in a path which they immediately took, inviting us to follow them. This we did; but it was not long before they expressed their desire to see us return towards our ships, and parted from us, frequently looking back to watch our motions. On my pronouncing the word quangloa, however, which signifies, will you come, they stopped, and I went up to them, with an officer of the 'Recherche.' They continued to lead us along the same path. In this way we walked on for a quarter of an hour, holding them by the arm, when on a sudden they quickened their pace, so that it was not easy for us to follow them farther. It

appeared to us that they wished we should leave them, for some of them would not allow us to hold them by the arm any longer, and walked by themselves, at some distance from us. One of our crew, desirous of rejoining one of the fugitives, ran after him, bawling; this alarmed all the rest, who immdeiately hastened away and kept at a considerable distance from us. No doubt they were desirous to reach the place where they had deposited their weapons; for they struck out of the path a little, and presently we saw them with three of four spears each, which they carried away. They then invited us to follow them, but we were not willing to go any farther.'"

"Péron's account [WEL: 1803] now follows. In looking in the direction from which cries had proceeded, 'we perceived two savages, who ran along the shore, both making great gestunes of surprise and admiration. . . . We answered by some cries, and tried to approach the bank; but instead of waiting for us, they dived into the forest and disappeared. In continuing our journey, we arrived at a small creek, at the end of which there was a pretty valley. We had hardly set foot ashore before two aborigines showed themselves at the top of a hillock. At the signs of friendship we made them, one of them threw himself, rather than descended from the rock. His physiognomy had nothing wild or harsh about it, his air expressed at once goodwill and surprise. That which seemed to strike him was the whiteness of our skin: wishing, no doubt, to assure himself that this colour was the same on the [39] whole of the body, he opened successively our waistcoats and shirts; and his astonishment manifested itself by great cries of surprise, and, above all, by extremely rapid stampings of the foot. Our long boat, however, appeared to occupy him even more than our persons; and after having examined us for some moments, he jumped into this vessel. There, without in the least troubling himself about the presence of the sailors, he appeared as if absorbed in his new examination; the thickness of the ribs and timbers, the solidity of its construction, its rudder, its oars, its masts, its sails; he observed everything with that silence and deep attention which are the least doubtful signs of interest and profound admiration. Just then, one of the oarsmen wishing, doubtless, to add to his surprise, gave him a glass bottle full of arrack, which

formed part of the rations of the crew. The lustre of the glass made the savage utter a cry of astonishment, he took the bottle and examined it for a few moments; but his curiosity was soon brought back to the boat, he threw the bottle into the sea, and then returned to his former examination. Neither the cries of the sailor for the loss of his bottle of arrack, nor the haste of one of his comrades to jump into the water to save it, appeared to affect him. He attempted several times to push out the long boat; but the cable which held it fast rendering his efforts useless, he was forced to abandon them, and to return to us, after having given us the most striking example we had ever seen of attention and reflection among savage peoples. Arrived at the top of the hillock, we found the second aborigine; he was an old man, about fifty years of age; his physiognomy, like that of the young man, was open and frank; and despite some undoubted signs of agitation and fear, one could easily distinguish candour and good nature. This old man, having examined us both with as much surprise and satisfaction as the first one, and having verified, as he did, the colour of our chests by opening our waistcoats and shirts, he made a sign to two women, who held off, to approach; they hesitated for a few moments, after which the elder one came to us, followed by the younger more timid and troubled one. The former appeared, like the old man, good and well disposed. The young woman had an interesting physiognomy. Her eyes had expression and something spirituel [in them] which surprised

us, and which we have never found since in any other woman of her nation; ... she appeared, moreover, to dearly love her child [a girl], [40] and her care for it had that affectionate and sweet character which is the particular attribute of maternal tenderness. At this juncture the young woman had a surprise. One of our sailors had a pair of fur gloves which he took off and put in his pocket on nearing the fire. On seeing this the young woman uttered so loud a cry that at first we were alarmed; but we were not slow to understand the cause of this species of fright, and by her expressions and gestures we could not doubt but that she had taken the gloves for real hands, or for a species of live skin, which could be taken off, put in one's pocket, and put on again as one pleased' (ch. xii. pp. 220-224)."

116, 431, 609, 832

"Péron continues, 'The young girl made herself more remarked every moment by the sweetness of her physiognomy and the equally amiable and spirituel expression of her looks; of a constitution much feebler than her brother and sister, she was more lively and passionate than they. M. Freycinet, who sat beside her, appeared to be more especially the object of her enticing ways, and the least experienced eye could have distinguished in the looks of this innocent pupil of nature that delicate shade which gives to simple playfulness a more serious and deliberate character. Even coquetry itself appeared to have been called to the aid of natural attractions. Having taken some charcoal in her hands, she in a moment made herself black enough to frighten one: what seemed most singular to us was the complacency with which this young girl appeared to regard us after this operation, and the confident air which this new ornament had spread over her face. While this was going on, the little children were imitating the grimaces and gestures of their parents, and nothing was more curious than to see these little negroes stamping their feet for joy at hearing our songs; they had unconsciously familiarized themselves with us, and towards the end of the interview, they made use of our notice as freely as if they had known us for a long time. Every little present we gave them filled them with pleasure, and redoubled their regard for us; altogether they appeared to us lively, frolicsome and mischievous. Ourê-Ourê had a rush bag of an elegant and peculiar

construction, which I very much desired to have, as this young girl also showed me some very amiable attentions. I ventured to ask her for her little bag; she immediately, without hesitation, put it into my hands, accompanying the gift with an obliging smile and some affectionate [sic] phrases, which I regretted to be unable to understand. In return, I offered her a handkerchief and a tomahawk, the use of which I showed her [41] brother, and which was a cause of astonishment and exclamation to the whole family. As night was approaching, we prepared to re-join our long boat; the old mother and the young woman with her children, except the biggest, remained in the hut; the others came with us; the path along which we walked bristled with shrubs and briars; our poor savages, being quite naked, seemed to have much to suffer from the scratches they received; we pitied Ourê-Ourê, but without appearing to perceive the numerous scratches which covered her thighs and stomach, she walked bravely in the middle of these thick brakes, chatting to M. Freycinet, without hope of making herself understood, getting angry at not being so, and at not being able to understand herself, accompanying her talk with enticing gestures and gracious smiles, which coquetry could not have rendered more expressive. In approaching our place of landing, we heard several musket shots, which caused great fright to our good companions, poor Ourê-Ourê, above all, was horribly afraid; her fears soon increased at the aspect of a numerous troop of our companions from the "Naturaliste" who came to meet us. After telling them of the good reception we had

met with at the hands of the aborigines, they hastened to load them with various presents; but nothing produced such a good effect as a long red feather which M. Breton gave to the young Ourê-Ourê; she jumped for joy, she called her father and brother, she cried she laughed, in a word she seemed intoxicated with pleasure and happiness. At last we boarded our two long boats. The good Van Diemen's Landers did not leave us for an instant, and when we pushed out, their sorrow showed itself in a most touching manner: they made signs for us to come and see them again; and as if to indicate the place to us, they lit a large fire on the little hillock of which I have spoken, and it seems they even passed the night there, for we saw a fire there until dawn. Thus ended our first interview with the inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land. All the details I have described are given with the most rigorous exactitude. The sweet confidence which the inhabitants had in us; the affectionate proof of good will which they lavished upon us, the sincerity of their demonstrations, the frankness of their manners, and the touching ingenousness of their caresses, all concurred in developing in us feelings of most tender interest.' (ibid. ch. xii. pp. 227-231)."

116, 562, 431, 609, 201

"Later on he [KS: Péron] says: 'On my return, I found that the little yawl of the "Géographe," having gone to fish on Bruny Island, the aborigines had appeared in large numbers, and that, loaded with [42] presents by our companions, they had passed the greater part of the day amongst them (ch. ii. p. 235). Early in the morning of the 31st of January, I landed on Bruny Island. I had already proceeded out of sight of the landing place, when, having rounded a big point, I perceived about twenty savages who were approaching me along the shore: I did not hesitate to retrace my steps, and in thus withdrawing met MM. Heirisson and Bellfin. They offered to return with me to the savages in order to open communications with them. We were already close to the troop, when, suddenly, it entered the forest and disappeared; without attempting to pursue the aborigines, which their agility would have rendered quite useless, we contented ourselves in calling them, showing them different objects, and, above all, in waving our handkerchiefs. At these signs of friendship the troop hesitated a moment, then stopped and decided to await us. We then discovered we had to do with women; there was not a single male amongst them. We were preparing to join them, when one of the oldest, separating herself from her companions, made a sign to us to stop and sit down by calling out loudly, médi-médi (sit down, sit down); she seemed also to beg us to lay aside our weapons, the sight of which frightened them. These preliminary conditions having been fulfilled, the women squatted on their heels, and from that moment appeared to abandon themselves without

reserve to the liveliness of their dispositions, all speaking at once, all questioning us at the same time, appearing often to criticize us and to be laughing at our expense; making, in a word, a thousand gestures and contortions as singular as they were varied. M. Bellefin began to sing, and accompanied himself with lively and animated gestures; the women were immediately silent, observing his gestures with as much attention as they seemed to give to his songs. As soon as a couplet was finished, some applauded by loud shouts, others laughed to splitting, while the younger, and no doubt more timid girls, remained silent, showing nevertheless, by their actions and the expression of their faces, their surprise and their satisfaction. Two or three young girls, of from 15 to 16 years of age, had in the expression of their countenances something most artless, affectionate, and sweet, as if the better qualities of the soul must exist, even in the midst of the savage tribe of the human race, as the especial appanage of youth. Amongst the elder women, some had a coarse and ignoble face; others, fewer in number, a wild and sullen look; but in all, one observed that air of uneasiness and dejection which misfortune and [43] servitude imprint on the forehead of every being who bears the yoke. One only had, among all her companions, preserved great confidence, with much cheerfulness and gaiety. After M. Bellefin had finished his song, she began to imitate his gestures and his tone of voice in a very original and funny way, which greatly amused her companions.

The deference we showed these women, and perhaps also the fresh charms which we owed to their cares, (1) seemed to increase their goodwill and their confidence in us; but nothing, however, could decide them to approach any nearer. At the least movement which we made, or seemed to make, to break the conditions imposed, they all jumped up in a hurry, and took to flight: in order, therefore, to enjoy their presence longer, we were obliged to conform entirely to their wishes. After having loaded them with presents and caresses [sic] we judged it time to return to the landing place; and our Van Diemen's Landers, appearing to be about to go in the same direction, the two troops started; but we were still obliged to give in to these inexorable women, and were condemned to walk along the flat shore, while they marched over the parallel sand-hills. Our route all the time was not less lively than our interview; and from the top of the sand-hills many pleasantries and enticements were sent to us, to which we endeavoured to respond as expressively as was possible. All at once, one of the women uttered a loud cry, which the others repeated with fright: they had discovered our small vessel and our companions. We tried to calm their fears; it was all useless, and the troop was already plunging into the forest

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"1. These women blackened the faces of their visitors."

when the woman, who almost alone had borne the responsibility of our interview, appeared to alter her mind. At her voice there was a movement of hesitation; she spoke for a moment or two to the others; but being, as it seemed to us, unable to persuade them to follow her, she descended alone from the sand-hills, and walking along the shore at some distance in front of us, with much assurance, and even with a kind of pride, she seemed to defy the timidity of her companions. The latter, in their turn, appeared ashamed of their weakness; little by little they became bolder, and decided at last to return to the shore. It was therefore with this numerous and singular escort that we arrived at our ships, near to which, by a chance difficult to foresee, all the husbands of these poor women had been assembled for some minutes. In spite of the most unequivocal proofs of the goodwill and generosity of our fellow-[44]countrymen, they still preserved a disturbed and sullen expression; their looks were wild and threatening; and in their whole attitude one distinguished an air of constraint, and malevolence, and treachery, which they in vain sought to hide; it seemed as though they were mortified at the failure of their various attacks, (1) while at the same time they dreaded our vengeance. A few days later

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"1. The savages had on several occasions thrown spears at Péron's party, they themselves being hidden in the forest."

I had the pleasure of meeting the same woman who has so often been mentioned. I then learnt that her name was Arrà-Màïda. M. Petit drew her portrait; therein will be noted will be noted that character of assurance and dignity which so eminently distinguished this woman among all her companions' (ch. ii. pp. 250-256)."

1: Roth--44-45 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 609, 826

"Still later Péron's party met, on the south side of Oyster Bay, fourteen aborigines collected round the fire, [who] received it with transports, expressive at once of surprise, admiration, and pleasure. "'Medi-medi" (sit down, sit down) were the first words they spoke to us. We sat down: they grouped themselves around us. The arms laid aside, we regarded each other for some moments. We were so novel each to the other! The aborigines wished to examine our calves and our chests; we allowed them to do this as much as they desired, and cries, often repeated, were the expression of the surprise which the whiteness of the skin seemed to excite in them. They soon wished to carry their examination further still: perhaps doubting whether we were constituted like them, or wishing to assure themselves with regard to our sex; perceiving, however, our extreme repugnance to such an examination, they only insisted with regard to one of our sailors, who, on account of his youth, seemed better able to verify their conjectures or to dissipate their doubts. At my request, this young man decided to give them this satisfaction, and the savages appeared quite satisfied; but hardly had they [45] recognized that we were constituted like themselves, than they began to shout so loudly together for astonishment and joy, that we were stunned."

1: Roth--45 [2]
116, 201, 609

(No date) 1890

Tasmanians

"Generally, they appeared to me to have much intelligence; they grasped my gestures with ease; from the very first instant they seemed to perfectly understand their object; they willingly repeated words which I had not been able to seize at first, and often laughed to splitting, when, whishing to repeat them, I made mistakes, or pronounced them badly."

1: Roth--45-46 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 609

"While M. Petit and I [KS: Péron] were thus engaged in our investigations, we suddenly heard loud cries in the forest. At these cries the savages rose precipitately, seized their weapons, and looked towards the sea with an expression of surprise and fierceness. They seemed very agitated when we perceived a small boat from our ships running along the coast at a little distance off. I do not doubt that this was the cause of their alarm, and that it was signalled from various points by some sort of sentinels, perhaps by their women. Soon, fresh cries were heard, and as they no doubt indicated that the boat was receding from the shore, the aborigines appeared to calm down a little.' [He relates that he managed to pacify them so far as to get them to lay down their weapons, but neither he nor M. Petit could [46] continue their drawings and observations, because the aborigines had become so restless and distracted.] (ch. xiii. pp. 278-283)."

"Backhouse mentions that under circumstances of rage among this people it is common for them to seize a stick and brandish it about (p. 103). During the war they naturally became vindictive. Desperate characters, who have absconded into the woods, have no doubt committed the greatest outrages upon the Natives, and these ignorant beings, incapable of discrimination, are now filled with enmity and revenge against the whole body of white inhabitants' (Colonel Arthur, Colonies and Slaves, Van Diemen's Land, p. 5). A Government Order says: 'It is evident, from the [48] hostile spirit of the natives, and from the cunning which seems common to all savages, that they are not to be approached without some personal danger (ibid. p. 34), and for such behaviour as this no one can reasonably blame them.'"

1: Roth--50 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 181, 609

"...Cook's people found them absolutely without fear, for, as Anderson records (Third Voy. Bk. I. ch. vi.): 'They approached us from the woods wothout betraying any marks of fear, or rather with the greatest confidence imaginable, for none of them had any weapons, except one, who held in his hand a small stick. When, however, the officer of that party fired a musket in the air, it sent them off with the greatest precipitation. [But the next day] we had not been long landed, before about twenty of them, men and boys, joined us, without expressing the least sign of fear or distrust.' Holman recording what he heard says: 'They seem to have but little fear of death' (IV. ch. xii. p. 405). But during the war of extermination it was said (Minutes Ex. Coun. Colonies and Slaves, Van Diemen's Land, p. 11): 'Such is the distrust of the aboriginal natives, that it seems they invariably fly from any two or three armed persons.'"

116, 181, 609, 431

"We have seen how difficult the French discoverers found it to open communication with the natives, nor were they at all singular in this respect. Mortimer, for instance, gives us the following account of an interview (pp. 18-20): 'Our third mate on landing, saw several of them [natives] moving off. He approached them alone and unarmed, making every sign of friendship his fancy could suggest; but though they mimicked his actions exactly, and laughed heartily, he could not prevail upon them to stay. The next morning, as we approached the shore, we observed several natives walking among the trees. When they perceived we had landed, and were pretty near them, they began to chatter very loud and walk away; upon which we called to them, imitating their noise as well as we could, and had the satisfaction to see them stop at a little distance from us. Several of them having long poles or [51] spears in their hands, we made signs to them to throw them aside, with which they immediately complied; and in return we put away our muskets. They now suffered us to come so near them as to take some biscuit, a pen-knife, and other trifles from us; but they took great care to avoid being touched. Some of them, indeed, would not accept of anything unless it was thrown to them; and the whole party kept edging off by degrees. They seemed eager to procure everything they saw; and had a great inclination for our hats. Mr. Cox gave one of them a silk handkerchief, and in return he threw him a fillet of skin which he wore tied round his head. The party which

we saw consisted of about fourteen or fifteen men and women, but there were several more concealed among the trees. Upon the whole, they seemed to us to be a timorous, harmless race of people, and afford a fine picture of human nature in its most rude and uncultivated state. We spent some time in endeavouring to inspire these poor people with confidence; but though they appeared to be very merry, laughing and mimicking our actions, and frequently repeating the words, Warra, Warra, Wai, they kept retiring very fast, and we soon lost them among the trees. Being willing to, if possible, see something more of these singular people, we followed the track they had taken. We saw a smoke on the opposite side of the island, and made all the haste we could to come up with it; but the natives had fled before our arrival.' Bass's experience was very similar:

'Their extreme shyness prevented any communication. As soon as the boat approached the shore, they ran into the woods' (Collins, ch. xv. p. 168)."

1: Roth--51-52 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 609

"Captain Bligh was more fortunate when he first met the natives (pp. 50-51), and the account he gives of another party, met by one of his associates, is as follows (ibid. p. 52): 'The account which I had from Brown was, that, in his search for plants, he had met an old man, a young woman, and two or three children. The old man at first appeared alarmed, but became familiar on being presented with a knife. He nevertheless sent away this young woman, who went very reluctantly.' Lieutenant Marion's party did not find the people at all shy, for he says (pp. 27-29): 'The next day some officers, soldiers, and sailors, went on shore without any opposition. The aborigines seemed good-natured; they collected wood, etc., and made a kind of pile. They proceeded to offer to those newly landed some branches of dry wood, lighted, and appeared to invite them to set fire to the pile. The savages did not seem at all astonished; they remained round us without making any demonstration either of friendship or [52] hostility."

1: Roth--52
116, 609

(No date) 1890

Tasmanians

"In the Papers, Roy. Soc. Tas. for Aug. 1873, is the following statement of an old settler, whose testimony tends to show that later on some at least were neither timid nor shy. 'Mr. Robert Thirkell, of Woodstock, near Longford, arrived in Tasmania in the year 1820, and was constantly among the natives. He found them a peaceable and inoffensive race of people, and in no case had he to resort to force to prevent mischief. On the first occasion the natives visited his place of residence on the Macquarie River, about twenty men, and the same number of women and children came, after which various numbers came at intervals. When he was engaged building a house, the men came and curiously inspected the work, and would use gimlets and other tools. At other times, Mr. Thirkell states that he met them in the bush, and in no case had he any cause to fear.... He has met the chief, who would walk up and put his hand on the horse's neck, talk as well as he could, and be quite friendly.'"

1: Roth--52 [2] (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 431, 609

"Their apparent want of curiosity seemed to arouse the astonishment of many of the early explorers and settlers. Anderson remarks (Cook's Third Voy. Bk. I. ch. vi.): 'They received every present we made them without the least appearance of satisfaction,' while Marion's historian reports (pp. 28-29): 'We endeavoured to gain their goodwill by giving them little presents: they rejected with disdain all that we offered them, even iron, looking-glasses, handkerchiefs, and pieces of cloth. We showed them the fowls and ducks which had been brought from the vessel, in order to made them understand that we desired to purchase of them. They took these animals, which they showed they did not know, and threw them angrily away.'"

1: Roth--52-53 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 609

"Bass narrates the following incident: -- 'In their [his and his companions] way up, a human voice saluted them from the hills; on which they landed, carrying with them one of several swans, which they had just shot. Having nearly reached the summit, two females ... suddenly appeared at some little distance before them, snatched up each a small basket, and scampered off. A man then presented himself, and suffered them to approach him without any sgins of fear or mistrust. He received the swan joyfully, seeming to esteem it a treasure. With some difficulty they made him comprehend their wish to see his place of residence. He pointed over the hills, and proceeded onwards; but his pace was slow and wandering, and he often stopped under pretence of having lost the track; which led them to suspect that his only aim was to amuse and tire them out. Fearing, therefore, to lose the remaining part of the flood tide, [53] ... they parted from him in great friendship... He was a man of middle age, with a countenance more expressive of benignity and intelligence than of that ferocity or stupidity which generally characterized the other natives... No part of their dress attracted his attention, except the red silk handkerchiefs round their necks. Their firearms were to him objects neither of curiosity nor of fear... His frank and open deportment led them to form a favourable opinion of the disposition of the inhabitants' (Collins, ch. xvi. pp. 187-188)...."

1: Roth--53 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 201, 431, 609

"... Captain Bligh has the following account of their strange behaviour when he offered them articles which must have been unknown to them before: -- 'The natives not coming near us, I determined to go after them, and we set out, in a boat, towards Cape Frederick Henry.... I found landing impracticable, and therefore came to a grapnel, in hopes of their coming to us.... Soon after we heard their voices like the cackling of geese, and twenty persons came out of the wood, twelve of whom went round to some rocks when the boat could get nearer to the shore than we were. Those who remained behind were women. We approached within twenty yards of them, but there was no possibility of landing, and I could only throw to the shore, tied up in paper, the presents which I intended for them. I showed the different articles as I tied them up, but they would not untie the paper till I made an appearance of leaving them. Then they opened the parcels, and, as they took the articles out, placed them on their heads. On seeing this, I returned towards them, when they instantly put everything out of their hands, and would not appear to take notice of anything that we had given them. After throwing a few more beads and nails on shore, I made signs for them to go to the ship, and they, likewise, made signs for me to land, but as this could not be effected, I left them.... When they first came in sight, they made a prodigious chattering in their speech.... They spoke so quick, that I could not catch one single word they uttered' (pp. 50-51)."

1: Roth--53-54 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 201, 609, 183

"When Bunce first met them, they scarcely deigned to look at his party (p. 55). Backhouse's later experience at their settlement on Flinders Island throws a little light on their apparent apathy. He relates (p. 81): 'A considerable number of the aborigines were upon the beach when we landed, . . . but they took no notice of us until requested to do so by W. J. Darling; they then shook hands with us very affably. It does not accord with their ideas of proper manners to appear to notice strangers, or to be surprised at any novelty. On learning that plenty of [54] provisions had arrived by the cutter, they shouted for joy. After sunset they had a corrobery or dance round a fire, which they kept up till after midnight, in testimony of their pleasure.' 'When Jumbo [a native woman] first came on board, she was shown a musical box, constructed like a musical snuff box. Having been brought up among Europeans, she did not feign inattention to novelties, as is common with her country people, but showed pleasure and astonishment in a remarkable degree' (ibid. p. 93)."

1: Roth--55-56
116, 548, 609, 831

(No date) 1890

Tasmanians

"...when the aggressiveness of the natives was making the life of the settlers fearfully unsecure, Mr. Brodribb said, 'Fourteen years ago there was a constant communication between the stock-keepers and the female natives, but that did not excite ill-blood in the males; the men would offer to give up their wives for bread; but did not feel indignant at the intercourse they permitted.' But here again the evidence is contradictory. Mr. Robert Thirkell 'found them a peaceful and inoffensive race of people... He never considered it necessary to carry firearms to protect himself against them... Mr. Thirkell considered any injury sustained by the white people was entirely occasioned by their own ill-usage of the females.' The Hon. C. Meredith did not agree with the [56] idea: 'Among the blacks there was no such feeling as jealousy, and it was notorious to the early settlers that the blacks were in the habit of forcing their gins to visit the whites in order to obtain what they could from them' (Papers, etc. Roy. Soc. Tas. Aug. 1873)."

"Rossel, referring to the difficulties his party (same as La Billardière's) had with the natives, says (I. ch. iv. p. 76): 'The apparent simplicity and gentleness of the inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land, seen at Adventure Bay by Capt. Cook, and Oyster Bay by Capt. Cox, seem irreconcilable with the hostile behaviour of the natives witnessed by the French vessels. Perhaps the superiority of the European arms, which were unknown to them before the arrival of the French, of which they made trial on the unfortunate occasion when they were obliged to be used, has simply rendered them more cautious and timid; which seems to indicate the necessity to be constantly on one's guard, and to keep them in check by fear.' But natives were very friendly to this party at first, and La Billardière describes an interview in the following words: 'One of them had the generosity to give me a few small shells of the whelk kind, strung like a necklace. This ornament was the only one he possessed, and he wore it round his head. We were quitting this peaceable party with regret, when we saw the men and four of the youths separating from the rest, in order to accompany us. One of the most robust presently went into the wood, whence he returned almost instantly, holding in his hand two long spears. As he came near, he made signs to us, that we might be under no apprehensions; on the contrary, it appeared as if he were desirous of protecting us with his arms. No doubt they had left their weapons in the woods when they came to meet us in the morning, that they might give us no alarm' (II. ch. x. pp. 33, 34, 40); and later on (II. ch. x. p. 42) he

continues: 'The attentions lavished on us by these savages astonished us. If our path were interrupted by heaps of dry branches, some of them walked before and removed them to either side: they even broke off such as stretched across our way from the trees which had fallen down. We could not walk on the dry grass without slipping every moment; but these good savages, to prevent our falling, took hold of us by the arm, and thus supported us. They continued to bestow on us these marks of kindness: nay, they frequently stationed themselves, one on each side, to support us the better.'"

"Péron, who was the next explorer, did not, however, find them [58] so amiable. While the surprise of one of the women on seeing a sailor take off his fur glove caused the party to laugh heartily, a native stole a bottle of arrack. 'As this contained a large portion of our drink, we were obliged to make him return it, at which he seemed to feel some resentment, for he was not slow in departing with his family, in spite of all I could do to retain him longer' (ch. xii. p. 224). The probable result of this little contretemps is described by him thus (pp. 235-236): 'On my return I found that the little yawl of the "Géographe" having gone to fish on Bruny Island, the aborigines had appeared in large numbers; that, loaded with presents by our companions, they had passed the greater part of the day amongst them; that M. Maurouard, one of our midshipmen, had proposed to one amongst them who appeared the most robust, to wrestle with him, and that the Van Diemen's Lander had accepted the challenge; was several times thrown by the French middy, and obliged to acknowledge his inferiority; that from that moment until their departure several hours had elapsed, without any signs being shown that the confidence and friendship of the aborigines had been weakened or altered, and that, loaded with presents by our friends, even at the moment when the latter were re-embarking, it was impossible to conceive the slightest suspicion of their intentions, when, all of a sudden, a long spear, thrown from behind some neighbouring rocks, struck M. Maurouard in the shoulder; that this rude weapon had been thrown with such force, that, after slipping along the whole

surface of the shoulder-blade, it opened a passage through the flesh of the shoulder and of the neck. The crew of the yawl, indignant at this perfidious cowardice and savageness, had wished to pursue the savages in vengeance, but they had already disappeared among the rocks and brushwood.'"

"...Péron's party were much troubled with the thefts committed by the natives. In describing an interview with fourteen savages, he says (ch. xiii. p. 279): 'M. Rouget, to whom we had confided the musket, placed it by his side, keeping it, however, well in view, for fear that some aboriginal would snatch it up and flee with it into the forest; a sort of conduct, with which, with other objects, we had had some experience of in the Channel [D'Entrecasteaux].' We may here mention in parenthesis that there are very few cases of theft brought against the aborigines, as Davies says: 'They do not appear given to pilfering, although instances have occurred.' From this time forth all friendly intercourse between the natives and the Frenchmen was at an end, [59] for, after describing a long, and so far very friendly interview, with fourteen male aborigines, Péron narrates how the sight of a little boat belonging to his [Péron's] vessels, cruising off the shore, threw them into a state of angry terror, in which he had the greatest difficulty to pacify them and to induce them to lay aside their arms. 'Gradually they appeared to become bolder, they spoke among themselves in an excited way; when they looked at us, their expression was gloomier and more savage than it had previously been; they appeared to meditate some violence, but the musket of M. Rouget seemed to restrain them, whether from curiosity or treachery, they worried him every minute to begin shooting the birds in the neighbouring trees, but we judged our position too critical to comply with their request. Their audacity grew with their defiance. One of them wanted my

waistcoat, the bright colours of which had attracted his attention. He had already several times demanded it of me, but I had so positively refused that I did not think he would return to the charge. However, one minute, when I was not paying attention, he seized hold of me by the waistcoat and pointed his spear at me, brandishing it furiously. I pretended to take his threats as a joke, but seizing the point of the lance, turned it aside, and showing him M. Rouget, who had just aimed at him, I said this single word in his language mata (dead); he understood me, and deposited his weapon with the same indifference as if no hostile demonstration against me had escaped him. I had hardly escaped this danger, when I found myself threatened, if not perilously, at least as disagreeably. One of the large gold earrings which I wore excited the desires of another savage, who, without saying anything, slid behind me, cunningly slipped his finger through the ring, and tugged so hard that he would undoubtedly have torn my ear had not the clasp given way. It must be remembered that all these men had been loaded with presents by us; that we had given them mirrors, knives, coloured glass beads, pearls, handkerchiefs, snuff boxes, etc.; that I had stripped myself of nearly all the buttons on my coat, which, being gilt copper, had seemed specially valuable to them on account of their brightness. Further,, it must be recollected that we had lent ourselves to all their desires and caprices, without asking anything in return for our presents, and then one can judge how unjust

and treacherous their conduct towards us was. I can, indeed, positively assert, that, but for M. Rouget and his scarecrow, M. Petit and I should have fallen victims to these fierce men. I must frankly declare that their actions were of such a [60] treacherous and savage nature as quite to shock both myself and my companions; and remembering what had happened to several of our companions in the channel, we came to the conclusion that it was necessary to appear among these people with the means to restrain their ill will or to repulse their attacks. Before leaving, I thought it advisable to bestow upon them fresh evidences of our goodwill: hence I approached the old man, took him affectionately by the hand, gave him a glass bottle, a knife, two gilt buttons, a white handkerchief, etc. The old man seemed the more pleased with these last gifts from the fact of our being about to leave him; he smiled with a contented air, mixed, however, still with something uneasy and savage. Meanwhile M. Petit, who wished to possess a spear, had bought one for a mirror. I myself desired to have a club, and I had already procured one, when the savages, thinking better of it, suddenly seized their weapons afresh, and uttering loud cries all together, they menaced us in such a threatening manner, that M. Rouget, in order to restrain them, was obliged to shout loudly, at the same time taking aim at the one who had shown himself the most furious against me. After this last show of violence there was not a moment to lose in regaining the shore; but fearing that these savages would overwhelm us with stones or spears during our retreat, as they had done

already several times in the channel, we decided to retire very slowly, M. Petit and I walking in front, while M. Rouget followed behind with his musket. These precautions were successful, and we regained the boat without accident. I have thought it proper to give the principal details of this long and perilous interview in order to enable the reader to rightly judge of the extent of the difficulties which arise when travellers communicate with savage races, and how impossible it is to triumph over their natural ferocity and their prejudices against us' (ch. xiii. pp. 283-287)."

116, 721, 609

"In a Government Notice, mention is made of the 'series of outrages' perpetrated by the aborigines, and the 'wanton barbarity in which they have indulged by the commission of murder in return for kindness in numerous instances shown to them by the settlers and their servants' (Colonies and Slaves, Van Diemen's Land, p. 20). 'It is evident from the hostile spirit of the natives, and from the cunning which seems common to all savages, that they are not to be approached, even with a view to reconciliation, without some personal danger' (Burnet, p. 34). 'They [the natives] were sacrificed in many instances to momentary caprice or anger,... and they sustained the most unjustifiable treatment in defending themselves against outrages which it was not to be expected that any race of men should submit to without resistance, or endure without imbibing a spirit of hatred and revenge.... It is the opinion of the best-informed persons... that the former [the natives tribes] are seldom the assailants: and that when they are, they acted under [62] the impression of recent injuries done to some of them by white people.... The Committee... are, however, not prepared to say that the description given by Lieutenant-Governor Sorell of the passive and inoffensive character of the aborigines, unless when previously attacked, is entirely supported by the evidence before them... It is manifestly shown, that an intercourse with them on the part of insulated or unprotected individuals or families has never been perfectly secure. Although they might receive with apparent favour and confidence such persons as landed, from time to time, on various parts of the coast, or fell in with them in other remote situations, yet no sooner was

the store of presents exhausted, or the interview from other causes concluded, than there was a risk of the natives making an attack on those very persons from whom they had the instant before been receiving acts of kindness, and against whom they had up to that moment suffered no indication of hostility to betray itself.... These acts of violence on the part of the natives are generally to be regarded, not as retaliating for any wrongs which they conceived themselves collectively or individually to have endured, but as proceeding from a wanton and savage spirit inherent in them, and impelling them to mischief and cruelty when it appeared probable that they might be perpetrated with impunity' (Rep. Aborig. Com. pp. 36, 38)."

1: Roth--62-63 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 181, 609

"'Natives in Van Diemen's Land are not so brave as those in New South Wales; they are more cruel and treacherous. If they were ever so well used, they would turn upon those that fed them; the women visit the stock-huts as spies, and then the men attack them' (Hobbs, p. 50). Evidence of Mr. Kelly: 'Has been a great deal among the natives; found they were generally met by them in a friendly manner, but upon leaving them they would attempt to spear them.
... They were always friendly at meeting, but treacherous at parting; noticed this whenever he met them... At Port Davey the natives enticed a boat to put in; received bread from the crew, and when it was departing, threw spears at it, and speared one man' (p. 51). 'The natives are grateful for kindness' (Bedford, p. 51). 'Mr. Brodribb was not inclined to think that the whites were the first aggressors, nor did he think that the intercourse between the native women and the whites caused any resentment in the minds of the native men' (p. 53). Evidence of the Rev. R. Knopweed: 'The first white man who was murdered by the natives was George Munday; he was out hunting; I believe at that time if any person had been surprised in the bush [63] unarmed, the natives would have murdered him. Munday had fed the man who speared him...; conceives this treacherous and ungrateful disposition prevailed amongst all the natives' (p. 53)."

1: Roth--63 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 181, 609

"A chief, with nine other men, having been induced to come to the house of Mr. Bateman, were treated by him 'with the utmost kindness, distributing to them clothing and food; they were placed under no restraint.... Mr. Bateman... was, with his family, most assiduous in cultivating the best understanding; but, after remaining with him eight or nine days, they silently withdrew in the dead of the night, robbing Mr. Bateman of everything they could lay their hands upon, and in their progress plundering every hut, and spearing every white man who had the misfortune to encounter them.... Eumarrah, the chief of the Stoney Creek Tribe, was captured two years ago; for some time after his capture he was narrowly watched, but by his apparently artless manner, and strong protestations of attachment, he was gradually confided in more and more.... I have...personally satisfied myself that he fully understood that the wishes of the Government were those of kindness and benevolence towards his race.... I entrusted him to conduct a party of natives, assuring him that they should be clothed, and fed, and protected; but to my disappointment and sincere regret, he availed himself of the first moment to abscond, and has, I fear, rejoined his tribe, with the most hostile intentions' (Arthur, pp. 58-59). 'The aboriginal natives of this island not only are without sense of the obligation of promises, but appear to be insensible to acts of kindness.' (Min. Ex. Council, p. 64)."

1: Roth--64 [2] (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 181, 609

"The following three incidents related by Backhouse show that they had some sense of generosity for a foe, and of gratitude, even if not always exercised; 'We passed the remains of a hut that was burnt about two years ago, by the aborigines of the Ouse or Big River district. An old man named Clark lost his life in it; but a young woman escaped; she rushed from the fire and fell on her knees before the natives, one of whom extinguished the flames which had caught her clothes, and beckoned to her to go away. They killed a woman on the hill behind the hut (p. 30). Two white men... were lost in crossing a river on a raft, before the tide was out. When some of the native women saw them in danger, they swam to the raft, and begged the men to get upon their backs, and they would convey them to the shore; but the poor men refused, being overcome with fear. These kind-hearted women were greatly affected by this accident (p. 147). We visited Hugh Germain.... He came to Van Diemen's Land... at the first settlement of the colony,... [when] he says, he rarely carried a gun, though he often fell in with parties of the aborigines, in whom there was no harm' (p. 212)."

116, 181, 609

"Dr. Ross found the natives very friendly; as he says: one day 'I was alarmed by the appearance of fires in three or four situations on the opposite side of the river, and soon after, a scattered crowd of about sixty aborigines walked up to my cottage. ...I did my best to conciliate my guests--I made them as welcome as possible.... After several fruitless attempts, I succeeded in making one, who, I afterwards found, was a chief among them, sensible of the loss I should sustain if the fire were to be allowed to approach my corn or my dwelling, for it was already on my side of the river, and spreading up the bank within a few yards. We were [65] doing our best to extinguish it,...but our efforts would have been in vain,....had not the whole tribe of blacks all at once come forward to assist me. Even some hours afterwards, when the flames again broke out in two or three places, they were on the alert in a moment and put them out. I mention this incident, as it was an act of friendship on their part, and shows, that where they have not been insulted, or had cause of revenge, and are able to discriminate their friends from their foes, they are not wanting in reciprocal offices of friendship and humanity. I am convinced that had I wished it, they would have stopped with me several days, and given me any other assistance I might stand in need of, as well as dividing with me the opossums and other game they had caught in the bush (Ross, pp. 145-146). On the day following this incident, when Dr. Ross was very anxious concerning a convict servant of his,

named Cook, who had already robbed him several times, and at whose hands he feared further outrage,... these natives appeared again; and for once I felt a sort of security from having them beside me.' After describing their manner of cooking and eating a meal, he continues: 'Their natural politeness was constantly urging me to partake with them, and, not to disoblige them, both I and my child each took a leg of nicely cooked kangaroo-rat in our hands....I had scarcely entered, when the report of a gun among the natives made me hasten back.... I learned that a person, whom from the description... I readily recognized to be Cook, had been seen by the dull light of the fire, standing among the trees a few yards behind. When he found himself discovered by the natives, he shouldered his musket and fired it off, pointed to the most crowded part, as they stood or laid round the fire. Happily, it was without effect.... I was now joined by two of my own servants, and we were all, to the number of about a dozen, in instant pursuit of the runaway.... The night, however, was very dark,... we were compelled, after running about a quarter of a mile, searching all about, to give up the pursuit. Whether it was from this little incident or not, I cannot say, but henceforth an uninterrupted understanding and reciprocity of good offices subsisted between me and these wandering, and, as they afterwards proved to be, most savage blacks.... They never committed the smallest trespass or annoyance on my farm,... and while the most dreadful outrages were committed by them all round, they never once attacked my farm or anything belonging to it' (ibid. pp. 153-155)."

116, 177, 721, 609

"The first Tasmanian blood spilled by Europeans occurred during Marion du Fresne's exploring visit. His party had landed and established friendly relations with the natives. But 'when M. Marion landed, a savage detached himself from the troop, and came to present him... with a fire brand to light a little pile. The captain, thinking it was a ceremony necessary to show that he came with peaceful intentions, did not hesitate to set fire to the pile; but it soon appeared to be quite the contrary, and, that accepting the brand signified the accepting of a challenge, or declaration of war. As soon as the pile was lighted, the savages retired precipitately on to a hill, from which they threw a shower of stones, wounding M. Marion and another officer with him.... Everybody re-embarked.... The savages conveyed their women [85] and children into the woods, and followed the boats along the shore. When we wished to land, they opposed our doing so. One of them uttered a fearful cry, and immediately the whole troop discharged their pointed sticks, by which a black servant was wounded in the leg. The wound was not a great one, and the rapidity with which it healed proved that these javelins of wood were not poisoned. We replied to their shower of spears by firing, which wounded several and killed one. They fled into the woods, howling fearfully, carrying with them those who, being wounded, were unable to follow' (Marion, pp. 29-31). The next party to come to blows with them was Péron's party, and on this occasion also the encounter seems

to have been caused by a misunderstanding. He relates that, on one occasion, when they had unwittingly given offence to a large body of aborigines by one of their number being wrestled with and overthrown by a middy named Maurouard, as they were in the act of re-embarking, 'all of a sudden a long spear, thrown from behind some neighbouring rocks, struck M. Maurouard in the shoulder; this rude weapon had been thrown with such force that, after slipping along the whole surface of the shoulder-blade, it opened a passage through the flesh of the shoulder and the neck. The crew... wished to pursue the savages in vengeance, but they had already disappeared among the rocks and brushwood.... A few days afterwards, in another part of the channel [D'Entrecasteaux], there was a fresh attack, in which the savages rained a storm of pebbles down upon us; fortunately no one was hit' (Péron, ch. xii. p. 236). Another time he states: 'A short time after our return, the Commander himself came back from a short excursion which he had gone to make on the mainland [Tasmania] with Captain Hamelin, MM. Lechenault and Petit. These gentlemen had again encountered the aborigines, and the interview had again terminated in a violent attack on the part of the latter."

116, 609, 431

"The fact was, M. Petit, having sketched several of the savages, the party was preparing to return to the ship, when one of them [savages] threw himself upon the artist in order to take from him the drawings he had just made; upon his trying to defend himself, the savage became furious and took up a log, with which he would have killed our weak companion, if the others had not run to his rescue. Far, however, from seeking to revenge such audacity, they were pleased to shower new presents upon the aggressor, in the hope, no doubt, of calming his fury by such generous conduct, and to gain the goodwill also of his fellow-countrymen; but hardly had these [86] savage men seen our party occupied in re-embarking, than they re-entered the forest, and a moment afterwards there came a shower of stones, one of which struck the Commander in the back, causing a large and painful contusion. Our comrades, in spite of this treachery, did not wish to cease being magnanimous. It was in vain that the savages exposed themselves to their shots, by provoking them from the top of the bank they had just quitted; vainly they brandished their spears and multiplied their threatening gestures; not a single shot was fired at them. "These last hostilities," says our botanist, M. Leschenault, "were committed by the aborigines without our having given them the slightest provocation; on the contrary, we had loaded them with presents and kindnesses, and nothing in our conduct could have offended them." ... The morning after the attack I have just spoken of, Captain

Hamelin started in his yawl to reconnoitre the bank, and approached sufficiently near to observe what was going on. It seemed that the event of the previous day had made the savages uneasy, or that they intended to attack us should we descend on their shores; for the Captain saw thirty-six men marching along the shore, in squads of five or six individuals, one in each group of which carried a bundle of spears; and at the head of this little army a man, with a flaming brand in his hand, set fire at intervals to the brushwood which covered the ground. Did this precaution seem necessary to them for observing us from a distance, or to take away from us the means of hiding ourselves and surprising them?' (Ch. xii. pp. 237-239)"

"'M. Freycinet and I landed to engage in some intercourse with the natives. Their ways on this cape seemed to be even wilder than those in the Channel...; it was impossible to get near them; at sight of us they all fled into the forest.... Having crossed the little bay, ... we saw a sight similar to that of which I have spoken at our entry into the north-east port. Black clouds of smoke rose on all sides; the forest was everywhere on fire; the wild inhabitants of the region appeared to wish to drive us from their shores at this cost. They had retired on to a high mountain, which itself looked like an enormous pyramid of flame and smoke; from this they made their shouts heard, and the assembly of individuals seemed numerous.... As we approached the top of the mountain, the shouts redoubled, and we soon expected to be under the necessity of sustaining or repelling an attack. All of a sudden the cries ceased. We arrived, and saw with surprise that the aborigines had fled, abandoning their miserable huts. After having collected several weapons which they had forgotten, we followed this route for some time... without meeting a single one of the aborigines' (Péron, ch. xii. pp. 244-246). Again, during another excursion, 'We were about to land in order to pass the night, when we perceived a mob of 25 or 30 savages, who, armed with long spears, advanced towards us with loud shouts.... We should have been obliged, with such hosts, to pass the night under arms; we resolved, therefore, to go further up the bay, being convinced

the savages would not follow us. In reality, they continued their route to the west, and soon disappeared' (Péron, ch. xiii. p. 277). But on the last occasion of meeting an armed party at Oyster Bay, Péron's company landed and found fourteen savages collected around a large fire, and who received him with friendship. 'They were armed for the most part with long spears; the others had clubs in their hands; these they deposited by their side' (ch. xiii. p. 278)."

1: Roth--87 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 609

"After these accounts of Marion and Péron, and allowing on the other hand for the fact that Cook's party had none but friendly intercourse with them, it sounds strange to read as follows in Wentworth (pp. 116-117): 'They have seldom or never been known to act on the offensive, except when they have met some of their persecutors singly. Two persons armed with muskets may traverse the island from one end to the other in the most perfect safety.' However this might have been, perhaps, after all, the real cause of the later hostility of the aborigines was due to the unfortunate encounter on the 3rd May, 1804, when about five hundred blacks, 'supposed to have belonged to the Oyster Bay tribe, gathered on the hills which overlooked the camp.... The convicts and soldiers were drawn up to oppose them. A discharge of firearms threw them into momentary panic, but they soon re-united. A second, of ball cartridge, brought down many; the rest fled in terror, and were pursued.... William White, who saw them earliest, and gave notice of their approach, declared they then exhibited no hostility. They came down in a semi-circle, carrying waddies, but not spears; a flock of kangaroos hemmed in between them. The women and children attended them. They came singing, and bearing branches of trees' (West, II. p. 6). From what we know regarding their disposal of the women and children when hostilely inclined, it is safe to say that this party of aborigines was approaching with friendly intentions."

116, 609, 619, 726

"The following account by Calder, compiled from the sources already mentioned, gives the best conception of the [88] methods and tactics adopted by the aborigines in their final struggle with the Europeans. This account appears in the Journ. Anth. Inst. 1873, pp. 7-11, and we supplement it by important extracts from other sources. 'Tribal dissensions, causing mutual destruction (for such were their jealousies and hatreds, that they fought one another all the time they were thrashing the whites), contributed to their decrease in some degree.... Beyond all doubt, they [the settlers] were no match for the blacks in bush fighting, either in defensive or offensive operations.... If it had been possible to bring the savage into fair and open fighting with something like equal numbers, this would have been reversed. But the black assailant was far too acute and crafty an enemy to be betrayed into this style of contest, and never fought till he knew he had his opponents at a disadvantage to themselves. He waited and watched for his opportunity for hours, and often for days, and when the proper moment arrived, he attacked the solitary hut of the stock-keeper, or the hapless traveller whom he met in the bush, with irresistable numbers, taking life generally singly, but often; the largest number I read of his destroying on one occasion being four persons. In these assaults on the dwellings of his enemy he contrived his attacks so cleverly as to insure success at least five times in six, and if forced to abandon his enterprise, his retreat, with few exceptions, was a

bloodless one. The natives so managed their advance on the point of attack as not to be seen until they were almost close to the dwelling of their victim. They distinguished between a house and a hut, and seldom approached the former.... They never attacked except in parties of twenty, fifty, a hundred, or even greater numbers. Their mode of assaulting a dwelling when there were several inmates at home, which they knew by previous watching, was to divide into small gangs of five, ten, or more, each concealing itself,... their approach being so quiet as to create no suspicion of their presence, to which the woody and uneven nature of the country is eminently favourable. Then one of these parties, which was prepared for instant retreat, made its presence known, either by setting fire to some shed or bush fence, or by sending a flight of spears in at the window, shouting their well-known war-whoop at the same time. This never failed of bringing out the occupants, who, seeing the authors of the outrage, now at a safe distance, but in an attitude of defiance, incautiously pursued them.... The blacks then retreated just as quickly as the others advanced, keeping out of gunshot, and [89] defying them, generally in good English, to come on.... Having decoyed their pursuers to a safe distance into the woods, and generally with rising ground between them and the hut, the others sprang from their cover, and rushing into the place, plundered it of its contents, often finishing their work by burning it to its foundations; first, however, killing or leaving for dead, any unfortunate persons--mostly a mother and her children--who

chanced to be left behind. They then fled with their booty, reuniting with the decoy party at some distant point. In their first systematized assaults... their principal object was murder, but in later times, plunder.... They took everything that was useful, and often what was of no use at all to them,... such, for example, as clocks, workboxes, etc .... But provisions of all sorts, and, above all, blankets, firearms, and ammunition, were the articles they prized most; of which latter they eventually surrendered many stand to the Government, pistols, muskets, fowling-pieces, powder and ball, all perfectly clean and dry, and in excellen order. Of these latter it was found that they knew not only the use, but were also practised in using them; but there is no instance of their bringing them into the field, though they afterwards assured Mr. Robinson that they meant to have done so, but to the last they seem to have preferred their own arms in both fight and chase--namely, the spear and waddy.... Notwithstanding the ancient customs of the blacks, not to permit the women to take any part in active war, these individuals could not be restrained from joining in and sometimes leading the attack. One of these persons, ... a woman of one of the East Coast tribes, ... planned and executed nearly every outrage that was committed in the districts bordering on the north and northwestern coast. In the days of their decay, she collected the poor remnants of several tribes into one hostile band, of whom she was the leader and chieftainess.'"